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REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Letter dated 28 February 1992 from the representatives of
Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay to the
United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to forward to you the following documents signed by the Presidents of the South Cone Countries in the summit meeting held at Canela, Brazil on 20 February 1992: (a) Declaration of Canela and (b) document on the Joint Position of the South Cone Countries regarding the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (see annex).

We request that the text of the present letter and its annex be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 80 of the preliminary list and brought to the attention of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at its fourth session.

(Signed) Alfredo CHIARADIA
Minister Plenipotentiary
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of Argentina
to the United Nations

(Signed) Ronaldo Mota SARDENBERG
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Brazil
to the United Nations

(Signed) James HOLGER
Ambassador
Deputy Permanent Representative and
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of Chile
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(Signed) Hugo SAGUIER CABALLERO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Paraguay
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(Signed) Maria del Luján FLORES
Minister
Deputy Permanent Representative and
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* A/47/50.

ANNEX

Declaration of Canela

We, the Presidents of the Southern Cone Countries, meeting at Canela, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, on 20 and 21 February 1992, to review the agenda items of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, have adopted the following declaration:

Declaration of Canela by the Presidents of the Southern
Cone Countries prior to the United Nations Conference
on Environment and Development

1. The environmental crisis threatens survival on Earth. We are living in an ecosystem whose balance is essential for all humanity. The protection of the environment and the rational conservation of natural resources require a firm commitment by all nations of the world to work in concert in order to ensure for future generations the continuance of the conditions that make life possible on our planet.
2. We fully accept this common responsibility, aware that participation in its fulfilment will differ because countries have contributed differently to causing environmental problems and there are differences in the availability of financial and technological resources. The effort which the developing countries must make requires the input of new, additional, continuing financing under especially favourable conditions and the transfer of environmentally sound technology on the most advantageous terms, in keeping with the different capabilities of the developed and developing countries.
3. Development must be at the heart of all action to reverse the steady degradation of the environment. Such action should come to grips not only with the symptoms but also, basically, with the causes of the problems. To achieve their objectives fully, multinational environmental programmes must properly define responsibilities, respect the sovereignty of nations under international law and bring about an interdependence that will guarantee equitable benefits to all parties.
4. Since we are convinced of the need to take joint action, it is fruitless to limit ourselves to attributing responsibility for damage done to the environment in the past, without drawing an instructive lesson from the experiences we have undergone. It is essential to agree immediately on formulas to which we all subscribe which will prevent the repetition of predatory behaviour, uproot forever selfish or unscrupulous attitudes and ensure that projects make provision for adequate assessment of their environmental impact.
5. The international community has understood that the protection of the environment and the conservation of natural resources are not obstacles to

material progress and economic development. On the contrary, they are complementary concepts, because goods cannot continue to be produced if natural resources are not protected. We need a renewed system of international cooperation that will bring about an environmentally sound planet that is at the same time a socially and economically just world. The essential is qualitative growth, a sustainable development that meets the needs of present generations without compromising the options of those to come. Rather than engaging in recriminations, the international community must direct its efforts to adopting the means to sustainable development.

6. We reaffirm the importance of education and of training the public to be aware and responsible when it comes to all the problems of the environment. Participation by the community, by community leaders, by young people, non-governmental organizations and the media, must be encouraged so as to spread the knowledge and the practice of environmentally sound patterns of conduct.

7. The strengthening of the scientific and technological infrastructures in the developing countries and the cooperation of the developed countries in disseminating and transferring technologies that are environmentally the most sound, modern and appropriate are part and parcel of this common effort to defend and protect the environment.

8. The understandings reached on achieving the proposed goals require also the elaboration, progressive development and gradual codification of international environmental law. In addition to the laws adopted by each State, it will be necessary to conclude and improve international legal instruments covering the resources in their entirety, the resources belonging to more than one State, and the interrelationship of acts affecting them. Such international instruments must further include, among other provisions, those establishing environmental monitoring systems and systems for ongoing cooperation to deal with climate change, depletion of the ozone layer, natural disasters and other environmental threats. The Rio Conference must decide to frame a Convention codifying international environmental law, which will lay down the principles, determine the duties of States and of individuals and corporations, specify international responsibility in the matter and establish a way of putting this responsibility into effect in sanctioning ecologically illicit conduct.

9. We consider that the market economy has machinery which, if used efficiently, can encourage rational environmental behaviour and discourage behaviour that scientific research has shown to be harmful. However, market forces are not sufficient by themselves to establish sustainable development. Commercial transactions must include the environmental costs incurred at the production stage, without transferring them to future generations. We again state our opposition to maintaining systems of subsidies that not only misdirect production and distort market conditions but also tend to give respectability to practices that despoil natural resources.

10. The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development has the highest priority. The Rio Conference is a unique historic opportunity that must not be missed if we are to initiate a new stage of international cooperation that result in an intensified transfer of financial resources and technology. In union with the other Latin American and Caribbean countries, with whom in March 1991 we adopted the Tlatelolco Platform on Environment and Development, we shall seek in Rio de Janeiro to achieve a solid basis for an international agreement leading all States without exception to achieve sustainable development and to take joint action in defence of the environment.

11. We affirm our intention to maintain regular contacts between our Governments concerning environment and development, both before and after the Rio Conference, and to use the most appropriate means to implement and apply our common action in the field. In particular, these contacts will be used to study the technical and economic feasibility of establishing, with the support of the competent international agencies, a regional network for the observation of stratospheric ozone, which will make it possible to monitor, in the necessary detail, the changes taking place in the ozone layer.

12. The meeting at Canela of the Presidents of the Southern Cone Countries and the meeting at Manaus of the Presidents of the Amazon Countries, held at the invitation of the Government of Brazil, testify clearly to the political will of the South American countries to establish common positions to ensure the success of the Rio Conference.

The following document of positions will guide the delegations of our countries in the negotiations prior to the Rio Conference.

APPENDIX

Joint position of the Southern Cone Countries prior to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

I. PROTECTION OF THE ATMOSPHERE

1. Global climate change, a result primarily of excess gas emissions caused by the burning of fossil fuels, will have profound implications on the economic development of our countries. Similarly, the harmful effects of the destruction of the stratospheric ozone layer and of transboundary air pollution are cause for concern.
2. It is necessary to stabilize the atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gases. This will require the monitoring, limitation and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, internationally agreed to on the basis of parameters ensuring increased energy supplies in developing countries, in conjunction with the adoption of policies promoting efficient energy, industry, agriculture and transportation.
3. The negotiations on a framework convention on climate change offer a unique opportunity for the international community to achieve balanced commitments, which will necessarily differ in the case of the developed and the developing countries. The developed countries must assume a clear obligation to stabilize and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.
4. The depletion of the ozone layer is a phenomenon that affects the countries of the Southern Cone of South America in particular. It is of fundamental importance that there should be the widest possible participation in the revised Montreal Protocol and full implementation of the measures agreed upon at the meeting of States Parties in London, above all with respect to the new and additional financial resources contributed to the Interim Multilateral Ozone Fund for the implementation of the Montreal Protocol. The developed countries must swiftly implement conversion measures with a view to halting the depletion of the ozone layer. Moreover, it will be necessary to examine the adverse effects of depletion of the ozone layer and the likely extent of depletion in the future. It will also be necessary to find ways of limiting and mitigating damage caused by depletion and adequately compensating those adversely affected.
5. It is important to adopt measures to promote sounder use of fossil fuels and the development of technology to reduce the harmful impact of the use of such fuels on the atmosphere. Both developed and developing countries must formulate policies that will facilitate the adoption of consumption patterns and lifestyles based on sounder and more efficient energy use.

II. BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

1. Immediate steps must be taken to promote the conservation and sound exploitation of biological diversity. Biological resources are unquestionably natural resources of each individual country, and as such they are subject to national sovereignty. There must be cooperation between the developed countries and countries with a wealth of biological resources, particularly with a view to strengthening local institutions. National efforts in the areas of research, data collection, monitoring, and maintaining gene banks should be supported by the international community. It is important to recognize the right of the countries with greater biological diversity to the heritage constituted by such diversity, particularly as regards genetic resources, in respect of which it is essential to set up and respect appropriate registration, regulation and control systems. Conservation of biological diversity must be of an integral nature, with an emphasis on protected areas and areas established through economic and ecological zoning.
2. There is an intrinsic relationship between biological diversity and biotechnology, which offers one of the clearest opportunities for sustainable development. It is important to recognize the essential link between access to resources derived from biodiversity and free access to the resulting technology and the technology required for the conservation of biodiversity.
3. The use of biotechnology in the conservation and use of germ plasm for agricultural purposes, the improvement of cultivated species and the development of environmentally sustainable agricultural practices are essential activities that must benefit from extensive international cooperation.

III. SOIL DEGRADATION AND DESERTIFICATION

1. The international community must as a matter of urgency take action to prevent and reverse the growing process of soil degradation and desertification, as well as to eliminate the multiple causes of the process in question, which are a threat to human welfare and to food security. The Rio Conference will be an opportunity to give thought to constraints over the past two decades on the functioning of international anti-desertification machinery, as well as to adopt decisions with a view to revitalizing and strengthening such machinery.
2. It is essential to draw up a land-use strategy taking account of both environmental factors and development potential, based on scientific and technological progress and supported by international programmes and remunerative prices for agricultural products on a market free of distortions caused by subsidies and various types of barriers. The importance of preventive and corrective action in areas set aside for conservation must be acknowledged. It is essential, however, that such measures should also be implemented in areas suitable for production. Economic and ecological zoning is a particularly suitable instrument for achieving such ends.

IV. FORESTS

The economic exploitation of forest resources, which is a sovereign right of States, can and must be made compatible with protection of the environment, since forests, particularly native forests, are areas in which biological diversity is concentrated, that constitute carbon sinks, and that are an important factor in soil and water resources conservation. The sound use of forests calls, inter alia, for remunerative prices and market access for forest products on terms facilitating their sustainable development. In addition to the purely environmental aspects of forests, it is essential to recognize the importance of forests as economic, social and cultural areas, whose individual components form an indivisible, complex whole. Forest policies must take account of the fact that forests are a habitat for human populations, whether indigenous or non-indigenous, which depend on the forests for their livelihood.

V. WATER RESOURCES

1. According to the recently adopted Dublin Statement, on water and sustainable development, the quality of human life is closely linked to sufficient freshwater supplies of appropriate quality; consequently, goals must be set, programmes must be established and ways and means must be identified within a certain time-frame. Environmentally sound water resources management is a key component of the conservation of ecosystems and of the promotion of both individual and collective human development.

2. Integrated water resources management is therefore essential for the promotion of sustainable development. National and regional measures for the regulation, conservation and integrated management of hydrographic basins are essential for the exploitation of water resources for productive activities, for environmental risk control and for health protection. Similarly, control of pollutants and the adoption of measures to eliminate environmental threats are tools for such development.

VI. ENVIRONMENT

1. The health of the oceans as climate regulators and their role as carbon sinks should be a constant concern of the international community.

2. The degradation of marine and coastal resources resulting from their uncontrolled exploitation and marine and land pollution represents a serious challenge for the coastal countries that depend on such resources for their economic and social development. Marine pollution must be effectively reduced and rules must be established for the rational regulation of the use of oceans in order to protect the marine environment. In view of the integral nature of the marine ecosystem, fishing activities, both in exclusive economic zones as well as on the open sea, must be carried out in accordance with sustainable practices that are ecologically consistent with the rational and optimum use of hydrobiological resources.

VII. TOXIC AND HAZARDOUS WASTES

1. The forthcoming entry into force of the Basel Convention, whose first conference of parties is to be held in Uruguay, is an auspicious event for controlling the transboundary transit of such wastes, which should be complemented through the establishment of effective compliance - verification mechanisms, requiring personnel training and the available means of monitoring. The development of the liability regime provided for under the Convention is essential in order to ensure its effectiveness. There is also a need for an agreement within the framework of the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter (London, 29 December 1972) in order to ensure the total prohibition of the dumping of hazardous, toxic and radioactive wastes into the oceans.
2. States involved in the export of hazardous wastes must undertake a clear commitment with regard to the environmentally sound management of such wastes. This requires reducing transboundary movements of wastes to a minimum consistent with their efficient and environmentally sound management. It is also necessary to minimize the amount and toxicity of the hazardous wastes generated and ensure their environmentally sound storage or disposal as close as possible to the source of generation.

VIII. HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

1. The problems affecting quality of life in human settlements are becoming global in nature in so far as their impact transcends national boundaries and acutely affects most of the countries in the world. In the last 20 years, the industrialized countries have generally brought about a notable improvement in the living conditions in their cities by means of sound investments and new technology. In the developing countries, on the other hand, the problems are reaching critical levels with serious and unforeseeable consequences.
2. Cities constitute the main centres of economic activity in developing countries. Nevertheless, they have shown their inability to meet in a satisfactory manner the basic needs of a large number of their inhabitants. Satisfying those needs entails dealing as a matter of priority with the problems linked to access to basic services, particularly drinking water supply and management of domestic and industrial wastes, housing, urban security, energy, transport and education.
3. International cooperation in environmental matters must necessarily give particular emphasis to eliminating poverty. In this connection, greater attention must be given to rural settlements.

IX. FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE

1. As a result of the trade liberalization process promoted by the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), resources which are now being used to maintain protectionist production practices must be made subject to more coherent policies that are consistent with sustainable development. Environmental protection rules must be oriented towards their specific objectives, without constituting discriminatory practices or hidden trade barriers. The viability of sustainable development also entails the existence of an international climate that favours growth by all countries, especially developing countries. In particular, this involves a transition towards international equity, including cooperation with developing countries in accordance with their national development objectives, priorities and plans. In this regard, new and additional financial resource flows under suitable conditions for developing countries are necessary to enable them to fulfil the obligation to protect the environment and promote development.

2. It is essential to set up a mechanism capable of implementing the Agenda 21 action programmes and ensure that the multilateral legal instruments that are being negotiated also include suitable financial mechanisms for achieving their objectives. In this regard, existing financial sources, including the so-called Global Environment Facility, are inadequate and can only make a limited contribution to fulfilling the major commitments concerning the environment and development which will be undertaken at the Rio Conference and in the negotiations on biological diversity and climate change.

X. INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

1. The strengthening of national institutions, the establishment or streamlining of regional mechanisms and international cooperation are essential aspects of sustainable development.

2. It is essential to undertake efforts to ensure increasing coordination of economic policies and plans with environmental protection strategies. This should be one of the most innovative achievements of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. The harmonization of economic and environmental activities should be reflected at both the level of countries as well as that of international organizations.

3. Imaginative approaches that are global in scope must be found in order to provide the United Nations with more efficient and effective mechanisms for carrying out the decisions on sustainable development that will emerge from

the Conference. Its programme actions must be planned and executed with the complete participation of the developing countries in order to ensure that such actions are in keeping with their real priorities.

Canela, 20 February 1992

(Signed) Carlos Saúl MENEM
President of the Argentine Republic

(Signed) Fernando COLLOR
President of the Federative
Republic of Brazil

(Signed) Patricio AYLWIN AZOCAR
President of the Republic of Chile

(Signed) Andrés RODRIGUEZ
President of the Republic of
Paraguay

(Signed) Luis Alberto LACALLE
President of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay



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REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Letter dated 6 March 1992 from the Permanent Representative
of the Philippines to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

On behalf of the Permanent Representatives to the United Nations of the member States of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the texts of the Joint press statement of the Fifth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment, held on 17 and 18 February 1992 at Singapore, and the "Singapore resolution on environment and development", with its annex entitled "ASEAN Common Stand on the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and Related Issues" (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 80 of the preliminary list, and brought to the attention of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

(Signed) Sedfrey A. ORDONEZ
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/47/50.

ANNEX

Joint press statement of the Fifth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on
the Environment, held on 17 and 18 February 1992 at Singapore

1. Singapore hosted the Fifth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment (AMME) on 17 and 18 February 1992. The Meeting was chaired by His Excellency Dr. Ahmad Mattar, Minister for the Environment, Singapore.
2. The Meeting was attended by His Excellency Pg Dato Seri Paduka Dr Hj Ismail b Pg Hj Damit, Minister of Development, Brunei Darussalam; His Excellency Professor Emil Salim, Minister of State for Population and the Environment, Indonesia; His Excellency Law Hieng Ding, Minister for Science, Technology and the Environment, Malaysia; His Excellency Fulgencio S. Factoran, Jr., Secretary of Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Philippines; His Excellency Dr. Ahmad Mattar, Minister for the Environment, Singapore; and His Excellency Mr. Vikrom Koompirochana, Ambassador of Thailand to Singapore, representing the Minister of Science, Technology and Energy, Thailand, Dr. Amru Hydari Nazif, Assistant Director VI of the ASEAN secretariat representing the Secretary-General of the ASEAN secretariat.
3. The Meeting adopted the Singapore resolution on environment and development and its annex, the ASEAN Common Stand on the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) to be held in June 1992 in Rio de Janeiro and related issues. In preparing for the Singapore resolution, the Ministers were guided by the directions set out by the Fourth ASEAN Summit. A copy of the Singapore resolution on environment and development is attached (see appendix below). Annexed to that resolution is the ASEAN Common Stand on UNCED and related issues.
4. The Singapore resolution sets out the directions for ASEAN to enhance its ongoing and future regional cooperation and the ASEAN common stand on global environmental and developmental issues which are being addressed by the UNCED process and other international forums.
5. The Ministers reaffirmed the region's commitment to the principles of sustainable development. They recognized however that the pursuit of sustainable development requires close cooperation among and between ASEAN member countries in particular, and global cooperation in general.
6. The Ministers agreed that ASEAN member countries would work collectively towards the improvement of environmental quality, harmonization of standards, and jointly promote the application, transfer and development of appropriate environmental technologies. In the international context, the Ministers agreed that ASEAN would continue to actively participate in and support international efforts in promoting sustainable development.

7. To enhance regional cooperation towards sustainable development, the Ministers agreed that ASEAN member countries would work closely on policy measures that would help encourage the integration of environmental factors in developmental processes. Towards this end, member countries would also cooperate towards setting up and harmonizing environmental quality standards and adopt long-term quantitative goals relating to ambient air quality and river water quality.

8. The Ministers further agreed to step up cooperation in areas of information exchange, institutional development, and promotion of environmental technology and public awareness. Member countries would undertake to develop and implement programmes relating to: haze caused by forest fires, air and water quality management, natural resources and environmental accounting, environmental economics, trans-frontier parks and other protected areas, a regional network for biological diversity conservation and the protection of the marine environment in ASEAN seas.

9. With respect to development and global environmental issues, the Ministers agreed that new and additional financial resources must be provided to help developing countries in meeting the incremental costs of protecting the global environment. The Ministers urged countries to establish basic environmental standards as needed for a quality of life and environmental protection, and stressed that there must be equitable, balanced and comprehensive solutions to the interrelated issues of economic development and environmental protection.

10. The ASEAN Common Stand also calls for urgent measures to combat climate change, the immediate implementation of the Montreal Protocol Interim Multilateral Fund, the protection of the ecosystems of oceans and seas from pollution, greater efforts to protect freshwater resources and to ensure access of all people to this vital commodity, the sustainable management of all forests, the conservation of biological diversity, support for the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, and support for the objective of the Prior-Informed-Consent system for the trading of toxic chemicals.

11. The Ministers agreed that UNCED is an important landmark in a long-term global endeavour to pursue the goals of sustainable development. The Ministers also hoped that UNCED would produce comprehensive action programmes needed to halt the global environmental degradation.

12. The Ministers considered the initiative of the United States of America in launching the United States-Asia Environmental Partnership (US-AEP) Programme and agreed that the US-AEP would facilitate the transfer of appropriate and environmentally sound technologies to the region. In this respect, ASEAN member countries look forward to working closely with the United States in the proposed partnership programme. The ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment (ASOEN) had been asked to follow up on this proposal.

13. The Ministers also agreed to establish closer relation and cooperation between ASEAN member countries and other developing countries as well as associations of developing countries. In this connection, ASOEN had been asked to take appropriate measures to achieve this end.

14. The Ministers considered the outcome of the Fifth AMME as further evidence of ASEAN's success in regional cooperation, especially in the field of environment and development. The Ministers agreed that the Sixth AMME shall be held at Brunei Darussalam in 1995. It was further agreed that, if necessary, the sixth AMME may be brought forward to address the UNCED outcome and post-UNCED activities. The Ministers also expressed support and look forward to working closely at the forthcoming Second Ministerial Conference of Developing Countries on Environment and Development, from 27 to 29 April 1992 at Kuala Lumpur.

APPENDIX

Singapore resolution on environment and development,
adopted at Singapore, on 18 February 1992

Aware that the pursuit of sustainable development is essential for a better quality of life for the people of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) today and in the future,

Further aware that sustainable development, especially the management of the environment, requires close cooperation among and between the member countries of ASEAN in particular and global cooperation in general and that ASEAN should therefore strengthen such cooperation,

Recognizing that environmental and population factors must be integrated into developmental efforts in order to achieve sustainable development,

Further recognizing that natural resources and environmental accounting and valuation of environmental and ecological factors are essential to the successful pursuit of sustainable development,

Convinced that the outcome of the fourth ASEAN Summit in January 1992 has brought about immense opportunities for economic cooperation which promises regional growth and that such growth will have to be sustained through, inter alia, greater intra-ASEAN cooperation,

Realizing that the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) to be held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992 offers a unique opportunity to put into effect programmes for global environmental management and the achievement of sustainable development, and that ASEAN should therefore contribute its views to this forum, and

Further realizing that, being a grouping of dynamic developing countries, ASEAN should take a leading role towards achieving a proper balance between environmental protection and economic development and promote its common views on these issues at international forums, including the Preparatory Committee for UNCED meeting at its fourth session to be held in New York in March 1992 and the second Ministerial Conference of Developing Countries on Environment and Development to be held at Kuala Lumpur in April 1992.

In the traditional ASEAN spirit of amity, friendship and cooperation, we, the ASEAN Ministers, responsible for the environment, agree that:

1. ASEAN member countries shall intensify cooperation in environmental management and protection in their common pursuit of sustainable development. In this regard, member countries shall work collectively towards the improvement of environmental quality, harmonization of standards, and jointly promote the application, transfer and development of appropriate environmental technologies.

2. ASEAN shall continue to actively participate in and support international efforts in promoting the principles of sustainable development.

/...

Enhancing regional cooperation

To promote regional cooperation towards sustainable development, we agree that ASEAN member countries shall:

Policies

(a) Introduce policy measures and promote institutional development that will encourage the integration of environmental factors in all developmental processes;

(b) Work closely on the interrelated issues of environment and development;

(c) Cooperate in setting basic environmental quality standards and regulations at national level, work towards harmonized environmental quality standards in the region, and adopt long-term quantitative goals relating to ambient air quality and river water quality;

(d) Harmonize policy directions and step up operational and technical cooperation on environmental matters such as transboundary air and water pollution, natural disasters, forest fires, oil spills, and the transboundary movements and disposal of toxic chemicals and hazardous wastes, and undertake joint actions to address the anti-tropical timber campaign;

Information exchange

Encourage greater information and data exchange, particularly in air and water quality as well as greenhouse gas monitoring;

Institutional development

(a) Strengthen the institutional and technical capability of national agencies to enable them effectively to integrate environmental considerations into development plans;

(b) Cooperate in capacity building of national institutions responsible for the environment through regional training assistance programmes, regular exchange of information and management data and a greater exchange of visits among officials and experts;

(c) Work with and cooperate in providing adequate training at all levels in public and private sector organizations, including non-governmental organizations, with the aim of improving their environmental management expertise and skills;

Technology cooperation

(a) Continue to enhance cooperation in the field of environmental technology through sharing of technical information, initiate joint training

and research programmes, and exchange expertise in environmental management and technology;

(b) Promote the application of appropriate and environmentally sound technologies, as well as encourage support from the business sector and the public for clean production and industrial practices;

Public awareness

Continue to promote public awareness of environmental issues so as to bring about broader participation in environmental protection efforts, and to do so through greater exchange of information and experiences on approaches and strategies in environmental education; and

Programmes

Undertake to develop and implement specific programmes relating to: haze caused by forest fires, air and water quality management, natural resources and environmental accounting, environmental economics, transfrontier parks and other protected areas, a regional network for biological diversity conservation and protection of the marine environment in ASEAN seas.

Addressing development and global environmental issues

To address development and global environmental issues, we agree that ASEAN member countries shall:

(a) Adopt a common stand on UNCED and related issues as stated in the annex, and endeavour to have it reflected in the outcome of UNCED;

(b) Actively take part in international efforts to protect the global environment;

(c) Emphasize the importance for developed countries to provide adequate, new and additional financial resources to the developing countries to help address the environmental and developmental problems confronting them;

(d) Stress the need for developed countries to assist developing countries by transferring and providing access to environmentally sound technologies on concessional and preferential terms;

(e) Support the call for the developed countries to maintain an international environment which is supportive of economic growth and development;

(f) Explore the desirability of having flag States contribute to and help ensure safe navigation for the protection of the marine environment; and

(g) Promote greater cooperation among and between developing countries in the field of environment and development, through information exchange and the sharing of experience and expertise.

ANNEX TO THE SINGAPORE RESOLUTION

ASEAN Common Stand on the United Nations Conference
on Environment and Development and Related Issues

Aware that the pursuit of sustainable development is essential for a better quality of life for the people of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) today and in the future;

Further aware that the pursuit of sustainable development, especially the management of the environment, requires close cooperation among and between the member countries of ASEAN in particular and global cooperation in general, and that ASEAN should therefore strengthen such cooperation; and

Recognizing, that the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) to be held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992 offers a unique opportunity to put into effect programmes for global environmental management and the achievement of sustainable development.

We, the ASEAN Ministers, responsible for the environment hereby call for:

1. Urgent measures to combat climate change.

In this respect, the developed countries should stabilize and limit the emissions of all greenhouse gases.

However, any reductions in greenhouse gases must be made on an equitable basis, taking into consideration historical emissions and efficiency of energy use. In addition, adequate, new and additional funding must be provided by developed countries, especially those which have been emitting cumulatively large amounts of CO₂, to enable developing countries to meet the full incremental costs of combating climate change. Technologies to reduce CO₂ emissions shall be made available to developing countries on concessional and preferential terms.

All sinks, in particular coastal waters, seas and oceans, should be protected.

2. The immediate implementation of the Montreal Protocol Interim Multilateral Fund.

There should be expeditious transfer of environmentally sound alternative technologies from developed countries to developing countries, including building the capabilities of developing countries in research and development. Recognizing that the Montreal Protocol may have to be amended from time to time, any amendments must include adequate provisions to ensure the non-application of compliance procedure until the required technologies become freely and commercially available on concessional and preferential terms.

3. The protection of the ecosystems of oceans and seas from pollution.

Due recognition must be given to the fact that land-based sources of pollution, in particular sewage and wastewater discharge, and offshore sources such as oil spills are major causes of marine degradation. There is a need to modify the existing policies for concessional loans to developing countries on coastal and marine environmental management and protection projects. National capabilities for the acquisition of expertise in the implementation of international instruments for the protection of marine environment must be built up and strengthened.

The vital role of Antarctica in the global atmospheric, oceanic and ecological systems must also be recognized and efforts to protect and conserve its environment for the benefits of mankind must be fully supported within the UNCED process.

4. Greater efforts to protect freshwater resources and to ensure access of all people to this vital commodity.

Freshwater resources should be conserved and protected and the capacity for developing countries to conserve, manage and develop these resources should be strengthened. To achieve this, there should be adequate provision of fund at concessional rates.

5. The sustainable management of all forests.

Countries have the sovereign right to develop on a sustainable basis their forests in accordance with their needs and levels of socio-economic development. Any agreement on forestry and all types of forests must be part and parcel of the global package to undertake specific actions to resolve problems relating to environment and development. Developed countries should cease all forms of unilateral measures to ban the importation of tropical timber particularly when discussions have begun within the UNCED preparatory process on a statement of principles on global forestry. In addition, developed countries should undertake specific and transparent measures to increase their forest cover as part of their global responsibilities to restore the balance between development and the need to protect the environment.

6. The conservation of biological diversity.

The sovereign rights of States over natural resources, including genetic resources, should be honoured and respected. Funding mechanisms to compensate developing countries for their sacrifices and opportunity costs forgone for conserving biological diversity should be established. New funding mechanisms for biodiversity conservation should also be created. However, the funds should not be sourced from levels imposed on the trade of natural resources from the developing countries. The burden of conservation should be shared equitably by the developed and developing countries, taking into account the financial capabilities of the developing countries.

Access to biological diversity should be based on mutually agreed terms and the principle of prior-informed-consent so that the countries providing the genetic resources have preferential access to the results of research, products developed, and benefits and profits from genetic resources. Mechanisms to define ownership of genetic materials should be ensured. Transfer of technologies relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, as well as transfer of technologies that make use of genetic resources, should be on concessional and preferential terms.

7. Support for the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal.

The Convention should be complemented by a Protocol on liability and compensation which must address the concerns of the developing countries, taking into account their views with regard to liability and compensation from damage resulting from transboundary movements and disposal of hazardous wastes.

8. Support for the objective of the Prior-Informed-Consent (PIC) system under the Amended London Guidelines for the Exchange of Information on Banned or Severely Restricted Chemicals in International Trade.

A legal framework on the management of toxic chemicals in international trade should be formulated jointly by UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme), WHO (World Health Organization), FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) and IMO (International Maritime Organization).

To achieve the above, we, the ASEAN Ministers responsible for the environment further call for:

1. New and additional financial resources to meet incremental costs of protecting the global environment. New and innovative methods for generating financial resources should be sought and agreed upon. More funding for implementing sustainable development policies at the regional and national levels should be provided by developed countries.
2. The establishment of basic environmental standards for a minimum level of quality of life and environmental protection. Appropriate technologies to help countries achieve such standards must be identified and all means, financial as well as legal, to overcome patent laws should be made available to enable the transfer of such appropriate technologies to the developing countries.
3. Equitable, balanced and comprehensive solutions to the interrelated issues of economic development and environmental protection.

We, the ASEAN Ministers responsible for the environment further recommend that the following be reflected in the preparation of the Earth Charter and Agenda 21:

1. Earth Charter: the title of the declaration should be "Rio de Janeiro Declaration on Environment and Development". The Declaration should contain the general principles outlining the rights and obligations of individuals and States with regard to environment and development. Although not legally binding, the Declaration must be a strong expression of political and moral commitments to sustainable development. Among other things, the Declaration should affirm the principles of sovereign rights of States over environmental and natural resources, the rights of all peoples and States to develop, equitable sharing of responsibility, and the principle that unilateral barriers to free trade should not be imposed under the guise of environmental concerns.

2. Agenda 21: priorities should be set for the programmes, projects and activities of Agenda 21. The criteria and procedure in prioritization should be transparent and there must be a proper balance between development and environmental projects.

In the development of a funding mechanism to finance the activities and programmes under the Agenda 21, there is a need to ensure that funds are available for both development and environmental projects. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) should be reviewed and revised in both its scope and mandate. The disbursement of its funds should involve the participation of both the developed and developing countries. There is a need to create a general fund to deal with programmes not covered by GEF or other funds created under specific international conventions.



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JOINT INSPECTION UNIT

Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with article 9, paragraph 2, of the statute of the Joint Inspection Unit (see General Assembly resolution 31/192 of 22 December 1976, annex), the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the General Assembly the work programme of the Unit for 1992 and preliminary work programme for 1993-1994.

* A/47/50.

ANNEX

Work programme of the Joint Inspection Unit

The following work programme was drawn up in accordance with article 9, paragraph 1, of the statute of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU), contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 31/192 of 22 December 1976, and takes into account the guidelines laid out in Assembly resolutions 42/218 of 21 December 1987, 43/221 of 21 December 1988, 44/184 of 19 December 1989 and 45/237 of 21 December 1990 and decision 46/446 of 20 December 1991. The work programme is divided into two sections: section I lists the Unit's work programme for 1992, and section II indicates those studies which the Unit contemplates undertaking after the current year. As hitherto, the work programme is subject to change in the course of the year; new studies may be added and planned studies may be modified, postponed or cancelled, when circumstances warrant. Titles may be changed to reflect the new thrust of studies.

I. WORK PROGRAMME FOR 1992

A. Studies on management, programme and policy issues

- (a) Assessment of the impact of contributions made by the organizations of the United Nations system to the advancement of women in the last two decades - 1970 to 1990

The study will review the concrete achievements of the organizations of the United Nations system with respect to the objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace (1976-1985), as well as progress since the Nairobi Conference, with a view to identifying mechanisms to achieve greater coherence and effectiveness in United Nations activities and programmes related to women.

- (b) Use of balances in the United Nations system (cash and budgetary surpluses)

The study will make a comparative review and analysis of the policies, procedures and practices related to the cash and budgetary surpluses of the regular budget of the organizations of the United Nations system, covering the last two budgetary periods. It is part of a follow-up of two JIU studies, "Cash management in the United Nations and four specialized agencies (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Labour Organisation, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization)" (JIU/REP/86/6) and "Budgeting in organizations of the United Nations system" (JIU/REP/89/9, vols. I and II).

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(c) Management of buildings in the United Nations system

The study will examine buildings and building management practices in certain organizations of the United Nations system and draw conclusions therefrom.

(d) Towards a network of library information services of the United Nations system

The study will review the progress achieved in modernization of the major libraries of the United Nations system since 1984 and, in particular, implementation of relevant recommendations contained in the JIU comprehensive report "Cooperation between and management of libraries of the United Nations system" (JIU/REP/84/1). It will also examine plans for further modernization of some of the United Nations libraries and the general trend towards a network of library information services. Recommendations on progress and cost-effective utilization of modern equipment and effective cooperation of the libraries will be made.

(e) Managing works of art in the United Nations

Over the years, the United Nations has acquired important and valuable cultural properties. In many cases these have neither been valued, nor has a conservation policy been adopted for their protection. The study would identify the ingredients of a rational acquisition/deacquisition policy and recommend an effective programme for the conservation of the cultural property of the Organization.

(f) United Nations peacemaking and peace-keeping operations

The study will review the role of the United Nations in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, as evidenced by certain of its peace-keeping operations. The institutional, administrative and financial consequences of the role of the United Nations will be addressed, as well as the impact of those conflicts on development efforts, human rights and social progress.

(g) Review of the Economic Commission for Europe

The role and structure of the Economic Commission for Europe will be analysed in the light of the mandates and activities of the other European regional economic organizations and in the context of developments in the region.

(h) The performance of early-warning systems for emerging major issues

The study, which is intended as a follow-up to the study (JIU/REP/90/2) on the coordination of activities related to early warning of possible refugee

flows, will review the United Nations system's performance in providing early warning for emerging major issues also in the economic, social and security areas.

- (i) The managerial capacity of the Secretary-General to enhance coordination of United Nations activities in the economic and social fields

The study will look at ways and means of enhancing the managerial capacity of the Secretary-General to coordinate the economic and social activities of the United Nations. The respective roles and functions of the concerned departments and programmes will be reviewed (Department for International Economic Cooperation, Department of International Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, Department for Technical Cooperation for Development of the Secretariat, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), etc.) and options for administrative structural changes will be proposed.

- (j) Career development of United Nations staff, with due emphasis on training and mobility

The study will analyse the present situation where career development prospects vary widely from one department or organization to another offering unequal opportunities to the staff. Training and mobility opportunities will be discussed since these are important factors in career development.

B. Development cooperation

- (a) United Nations system cooperation with non-governmental organizations: operational and management issues

In recent years non-governmental organizations have become more and more important participants in international development work, especially at the field level, and many United Nations system agencies are reassessing or creating substantial new relationships with these non-governmental organizations. This study will explore ways and means of strengthening cooperation, particularly in implementing field-level programmes dealing with both development and relief/humanitarian activities.

- (b) A review of the specific development needs of small Member States and the responsiveness of the United Nations development system in meeting those needs

The study would suggest improved measures to identify activities corresponding to the needs and interests of small Member States. The study would be developed around three main issues: the mechanisms and channels developed by the United Nations system; how small Member States can better

organize themselves to overcome the handicap of a shortage of human resources; and how such countries can ensure their effective presence and participation in United Nations activities.

(c) The revised round-table process

The objective of the study would be to review the system of UNDP round tables for the least developed countries, with a view to making recommendations that would enhance benefits for both donor and recipient countries. The scope of the study would include the examination of preparations, procedures and structures for the round-table negotiations, implementation procedures, the participation and role of specialized agencies, the mobilization of the capacities of the United Nations system, as well as coordination arrangements.

(d) A comparative study of decentralization

The governing bodies of most United Nations system organizations have been calling for increased decentralization. Secretariats have responded in different ways based on their mandates, structures and budgets, among other influences. The aim of the study would be to move beyond conceptualization and organization and deal with the practical, operational problems of decentralization, such as delegation of authority, communications and information flow, staffing rotation and training, maintaining programme coherence, feedback, Headquarters support and responsiveness.

(e) Technology transfer and the United Nations system a/

In an increasingly technical world, the transfer of technology from the developed to the developing world is recognized as crucial to the transformation of the economies of the lesser developed countries. The present study would aim at assessing existing capacities within the United Nations system - institutional, financial, managerial - to deal with the transfer of technology.

(f) An evaluative assessment of the technical cooperation programme of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) a/

This study is the second part of a review which the Council of ICAO requested JIU to make in April 1991. The first report (JIU/REP/91/6) assessed the factors and possible solutions relating to annual operating deficits of the ICAO Technical Cooperation Bureau. This second study addresses longer-term operational and management issues to enable ICAO to have a more flexible, efficient, and effective technical cooperation organization, geared to operating in a complex and rapidly-changing development environment.

- (g) Analysis of the UNDP role and impact on technical cooperation among developing countries in Latin America

The report will review the status of technical cooperation among developing countries in a region where many economic cooperation associations have been at work for many decades. It will analyse the performance of UNDP in fostering this process.

- (h) Sharing of common premises and services at the field level

This study will follow up on the study (JIU/REP/86/1) on field representation and more recent studies prepared by the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions and the Department for International Economic Cooperation.

II. PRELIMINARY STUDIES FOR THE 1993-1994 WORK PROGRAMME

- (a) Rationalization of the structure of the United Nations dealing with peace-keeping operations

The study will explore the need for and ways and means of altering the current structure of the United Nations Secretariat dealing with peace-keeping operations, with a view to eliminating its current fragmentation and improving its efficiency.

- (b) Coordination in the United Nations system

The study will review who does what in the field of coordination in the United Nations system and possible measures to reduce overlap in mandates and wastage of time and resources. Coordination functions will be studied at the country, regional and global levels. The respective roles of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Economic and Social Council will also be analysed.

Notes

- a/ Evaluation study.



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99 of the preliminary list*

POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA: PROCEDURES FOR THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF A FIRM AND LASTING PEACE AND PROGRESS
IN FASHIONING A REGION OF PEACE, FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY
AND DEVELOPMENT

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS

QUESTIONS RELATING TO INFORMATION

PROTECTION OF GLOBAL CLIMATE FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE
GENERATIONS OF MANKIND

INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES TRANSMITTED
UNDER ARTICLE 73 e OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Letter dated 6 March 1992 from the Permanent Representative
of Jamaica to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit the attached copy of the Communiqué of the Third Inter-sessional Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community, held at

* A/47/50.

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English
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Kingston, Jamaica, on 19 February 1992 (see annex), with the request that it be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under items 33, 35, 36, 44, 76, 81 and 99 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Herbert S. WALKER
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Communiqué of the Third Inter-sessional Meeting of the
Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean
Community, held at Kingston on 19 February 1992

The Third Inter-sessional Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community was convened on Wednesday, 19 February, at the Jamaica Conference Centre, Kingston, under the Chairmanship of the Rt. Hon. Dr. Kennedy Simmonds, Prime Minister of Saint Kitts and Nevis. The following Heads of Government/Heads of delegations were also in attendance: the Rt. Hon. Erskine Sandiford, Prime Minister of Barbados; the Rt. Hon. George Price, Prime Minister of Belize; His Excellency Hugh Desmond Hoyte, President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana; the Rt. Hon. Michael Manley, Prime Minister of Jamaica; Hon. Reuben Meade, Chief Minister of Montserrat; the Rt. Hon. James Mitchell, Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; Hon. Patrick Manning, Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago; Hon. Dr. R. Williams, Minister of Economic Development, Tourism and Industry, Antigua and Barbuda; the Hon. Joan Purcell, Minister of Tourism, Civil Aviation and Women's Affairs, Grenada; Hon. George Mallet, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Trade, Industry and Tourism, Saint Lucia; Mr. R. O'Neal, Acting Chief Minister, British Virgin Islands; and Hon. W. Misick, Chief Minister, Turks and Caicos Islands.

Status of action on the six areas recommended by the West
Indian Commission for immediate action

The Heads of Government reviewed the position in the Community concerning the six areas in respect of which the Twelfth Meeting of the Conference had accepted the West Indian Commission's recommendation for immediate action.

A. Travelling in the region

They received a report from the Prime Minister of Grenada in relation to the matter of travelling in the region, and noted that, to date, the necessary legislative or administrative action had been taken by the Governments of Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Saint Lucia to permit nationals of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) to enter their territories through a common line along with local citizens and with documentation other than passports. They welcomed the indication by Trinidad and Tobago of plans to implement measures shortly and of other member States to act on the matter by the next Meeting of the Conference. The Heads looked forward to all member States completing early the implementation of all aspects of the West Indian Commission's recommendation in this area.

B. Free movement of skills

With regard to the area of free movement of skills, in which the President of Guyana was asked to provide leadership, the Heads noted the enactment of legislation by the Government of Guyana, introducing arrangements with effect from 30 March 1992, allowing free entry of UWI graduates in that country to live and work. They noted that a number of other member States have signified positively their intention to implement the proposal of the President of Guyana that, as a first step in the free movement of skills, the necessary national measures be immediately instituted to allow graduates of the UWI and the University of Guyana to move freely within the region to live and work. Member States also expressed their commitment to implement the measures in respect of entertainment and media workers after the clarification of some issues of definition that have arisen.

C. Steps towards a common currency

On the matter of identifying and embarking upon steps towards a common currency, the Heads received a report from the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, indicating that the relevant technical issues are under study. They noted that the efforts in process in this regard include a technical seminar of regional financial and monetary experts scheduled for Port-of-Spain on 13 and 14 March 1992.

D. Enlarging investment

With respect to developments on the matter of enlarging investment, the Prime Minister of Jamaica tabled for consideration a draft set of principles for the proposed Caribbean Investment Fund, which was developed by technical experts working under his leadership. The Heads approved the draft principles as the basis on which the Community would invite regional and extraregional private commercial interests to submit proposals for establishing the Fund, and agreed on the specific steps to be taken towards the creation of the Fund. The Prime Ministers of Barbados, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Trinidad and Tobago were requested by the Conference to constitute a Committee to complete the negotiations.

The Heads also gave their approval to efforts of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) countries to create an intermediating institution which would facilitate access to the CIF by those countries.

E. Advancing the CARICOM single market

The Prime Minister of Barbados presented a report to the Conference on the subject of creating the CARICOM single market. The Heads of Government noted the adoption by the Council, at its thirty-eighth meeting, of an overall work plan and timetable for the creation of the CARICOM single market. The Heads of Government welcomed the further progress that has been made in recent

times to remove barriers to intraregional trade, and looked forward to full implementation at an early stage of the Common External Tariff and the revised Rules of Origin for intra-CARICOM trade.

F. Mobilizing for international negotiations

With regard to mobilizing for international negotiations, for which the Prime Minister of Jamaica was asked to provide leadership, the Heads of Government noted the positive developments that had taken place in this area since their last meeting. They welcomed the progress achieved in the negotiations for one-way duty-free access of CARICOM goods to the Venezuelan market, and looked forward to the signing in the near future of a CARICOM/Venezuela Agreement giving effect to this objective.

The Heads regarded as a positive initiative the convening in Honduras in January of the first ever CARICOM/Central America Ministerial Meeting and the agreement reached at that meeting on the establishment of permanent institutional arrangements to pursue cooperation between the two regions. They were gratified that CARICOM views continued to be represented in the Forum of the Rio Group; and they were pleased at the successful establishment of a CARICOM/United States Trade and Investment Council, and at the preparations being undertaken on the CARICOM side for negotiation of trade and investment issues under the umbrella of the Council.

Preparation by CARICOM for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

Heads of Government considered a report from the President of Guyana on the work undertaken and being pursued within the region to prepare a CARICOM position for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), an event that will be of enormous practical importance for CARICOM countries, individually and collectively. They expressed satisfaction at the soundness of the work that is being done in this area under the leadership of the President of Guyana and looked forward with confidence to the regional position being fed into the preparatory process for UNCED and into the UNCED itself. The Heads were pleased that during the course of their deliberations they had the opportunity of having dialogue with Mr. Maurice Strong, Secretary-General of UNCED, on the outlook for the world Conference.

Assembly of Caribbean Community parliamentarians

The Heads of Government received with satisfaction a report from the Prime Minister of Barbados that work on the proposal for the establishment of an Assembly of Caribbean Community parliamentarians, which was first agreed at their Tenth Meeting at Grand Anse, was now at the stage where this important new institution could become a reality at an early date. In this connection, they welcomed the tabling of the Intergovernmental Agreement establishing the Assembly, and the signing of the Agreement during the course of their meeting

by Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford, on behalf of Barbados, and President Hugh Desmond Hoyte, on behalf of Guyana, and noted that the Agreement is open for signature by other member States.

Regional security scheme

The Heads of Government noted the progress made by the Ministerial Committee established to design a regional security scheme for the Caribbean Community. They endorsed the recommendations of the Ministerial Committee that the proposed regional security scheme should incorporate the existing Regional Security System for the Eastern Caribbean with links by means of cooperation agreements with other member States of the Caribbean Community. They requested the Ministerial Committee to pursue its mandate in order to finalize the structure of and other arrangements for the operations of the expanded Regional Security Scheme for adoption by the Conference.

CARIFESTA V and the 1992 Regional Trade Fair

Heads of Government, at the instance of the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, exchanged views on problems that have arisen in connection with the staging of CARIFESTA V and the Regional Trade Fair that have been scheduled to be held in Trinidad and Tobago in August and October 1992, respectively. The Heads expressed their understanding of the particular constraints being faced by Trinidad and Tobago in relation to these planned events. At the same time they were deeply conscious of the importance of CARIFESTA to the regional community of artists and creative workers, as well as to the regional public as a whole. Accordingly, they agreed that CARIFESTA would be staged on a redefined basis during the week of 22 to 28 August as proposed by Trinidad and Tobago. They accepted the offer of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to host a symposium on the future form of CARIFESTA during the week of CARIFESTA activities. They also noted that the Council had decided not to proceed with the staging of the Regional Trade Fair in Trinidad and Tobago.

Intraregional television hook-up

Heads of Government received a report on the progress of the work of the technical team, convened by Trinidad and Tobago, on the implementation of its mandate for intraregional television coverage in the Caribbean.

They welcomed the agreement for enhanced television coverage of major regional events in 1992, which will be realized through consultation with telecommunications providers and the broadcasting entities.

Heads also endorsed the proposals of the technical team, led by Professor St. Clair King of the Faculty of Engineering, UWI, to work towards the completion of the project.

West Indies Shipping Corporation

The Heads of Government reviewed the grave situation that has affected the West Indies Shipping Corporation (WISCO), resulting in the cessation of the operations of the Corporation, causing difficulty and inconvenience to intra-CARICOM exporters and importers. The Heads approved proposals from the Transportation Ministers Subcommittee for action that would bring a long-term solution to the problems of WISCO. A principal feature of these proposals involves the early privatization of the Corporation.

International changes of concern to the region

The Heads of Government were conscious that since their last meeting in July 1991, the transformation of the international political and economic order had continued apace. Along with the rest of the world they have witnessed the collapse of the effort to maintain the integrity of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the breakup of the USSR into a Commonwealth of Independent Republics, with each Republic, particularly Russia and Ukraine, exhibiting its own distinctive pattern of international relations.

They were saddened by the disintegration of the Republic of Yugoslavia caught up in the vortex of violent civil strife and the continuing tense situation prevailing among rival nationalities in that country. Heads therefore expressed the hope that an expeditious solution will be achieved in Yugoslavia in the interest of peace and democracy.

On the other side of the global balance sheet, the Heads have followed with deep and abiding interest the continued consolidation and strengthening of the European Economic Community both in terms of its own internal arrangements as well as in terms of its expansion to embrace the countries of the European Free Trade Area (EFTA) to constitute an even wider "European Economic Area".

They have also followed keenly the further progress made towards the transformation of trade and economic relations in the Western Hemisphere, the hallmarks of which are the envisaged North America Free Trade Area (NAFTA) and ongoing developments in the context of the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative.

Heads of Government agreed that these developments are accelerating the emergence of a new international order to which the region must adapt with the utmost urgent concern.

Certain of these developments entailed increased competition for the attention of the traditional supporters of the region's development efforts. They agreed that appropriate strategies must be devised in a timely manner aimed at maintaining the region within the focus of attention of traditional donor countries and agencies.

Heads of Government were of the view that the global changes taking place also served to underscore the compelling need for the region to employ its collective voice more effectively in international forums in order to respond adequately to the changes themselves, as well as to influence, where possible, the direction and pace of those changes.

In this context, Heads agreed that the ongoing transformation of the international environment also provided the region with an opportunity to call upon the major Powers concerned to garner and effectively utilize for international development the peace dividend which is anticipated to flow from the winding down of the arms race.

The Middle East peace process

Heads of Government welcomed the launching of the Middle East peace process as an important element in the relaxation of international tension. They expressed the hope that the process would unfold on the basis of the principles of equity and of respect for the legitimate interests of the parties concerned.

Haiti

The Heads of Government were pleased to receive a briefing from the Assistant Secretary-General of the Organization of American States (OAS) on the situation in Haiti.

Heads expressed deep concern at the persistence in power of the illegal military regime in Haiti following the overthrow of President Aristide. They regretted the failure of all efforts so far to achieve the restoration of the constitutional President of Haiti and reaffirmed their commitment to the maintenance of economic sanctions and of diplomatic initiatives to restore the legitimate Administration of that country.

They noted with concern that, as a result of the continuing political situation within Haiti, new waves of refugees are taking to the open sea to escape repression. They expressed their grave concern at the plight of the refugees and urged that their status as refugees be respected internationally.

The Heads reiterated the commitment of the Caribbean Community to work with the wider international community, in particular OAS, towards the resolution of the political crisis in Haiti.

South Africa

Heads of Government noted with satisfaction that, since their last meeting in July 1991, certain important advances had been registered in South Africa towards the establishment of a non-racial democratic society in that country. In particular, Heads were encouraged by the agreement of the parties in South Africa to the establishment of a non-racial interim government.

Notwithstanding these positive developments, however, Heads of Government emphasized that vigilance should be maintained by the international community in order to ensure that the process of change within South Africa continues along its progressive course. In particular, Heads expressed very serious reservations on the suggestion advanced by President de Klerk in January 1992 to retain a "white veto" within the reformed South African Parliament.

On the matter of sanctions, Heads of Government supported the continued imposition of international economic sanctions against South Africa at least until the proposed interim government will have been installed to manage the transition from the prevailing apartheid system to a genuinely non-racial society.

Events in Venezuela, 3 and 4 February 1992

Heads of Government condemned the attempt by a dissident group of the Venezuelan military to overthrow the democratically elected Government of President Carlos Andrés Pérez. They expressed their relief at the successful suppression of the revolt and welcomed the triumph of constitutional order in Venezuela. They were pleased to reiterate the solidarity of the Caribbean Community with democratic Venezuela, and looked forward to the continued positive development of relations between that country and CARICOM.

Identification of a candidate for appointment as CARICOM Secretary-General

Heads of Government considered the report submitted by the search committee that was established to identify a candidate for appointment to the position of Secretary-General when the present incumbent Mr. Roderick Rainford demits office. They were pleased to approve the recommendation of the Committee that Dr. Edwin W. Carrington, a national of Trinidad and Tobago and former Secretary-General of the ACP Group, be appointed to the position of CARICOM Secretary-General with effect from August 1992.

Caribbean Community Secretariat
Kingston, Jamaica
19 February 1992
